

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF

NORTHFIELD,

1880-81.



GREENFIELD:

W. S. CARSON, PRINTER, ARMS' BLOCK.

1881.

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Your Selectmen in presenting their annual report would ask your attention to some points in relation to the report, which may make its contents more clear to some. As the law requires that town reports shall be printed, it has been for several years the custom to close the financial year about the middle of February in order to have time for the report to be printed, and ready for distribution previous to the March meeting, and their reports should cover all receipts and payments of the entire year, say, from Feb. 15th to Feb. 15th; thus it sometimes as in this year occurs, that reporting the expenses of supporting schools for the year, we are obliged to report a part of the expenses of the previous year; thus, school expenses are due upon the close of the term. Last year several schools closed immediately upon the commencement of the town's new business year, and as the same schools closed just before the close of the same year, it will be readily seen that the expenses of one term of last year's schools in several of the districts, is necessarily included in moneys paid during this year, for support of schools and therefore while we have paid during the year \$2643 30 for support of schools, \$2022 00 was the expenses of the schools this year, and \$621 30 was virtually for the schools of last year.

In the apportionment of the expenses of building Turners Falls bridge among the several towns supposed to be most benefitted by it, it was the misfortune of this town to be called upon to pay towards it, an amount seemingly far beyond what was just and equitable, as our proportion, this together with the necessary town appropriations has made the taxes of this year necessarily large and burdensome, but as your condition has changed from a debt of \$2279 00 one year ago, to a balance in your favor of \$1579 00 now, your assessors feel to hope that with all the usual necessary annual appropriations (if we are not called upon to pay for another county bridge), the rate of taxation may be reduced from \$1 45 this, to near \$1 00 for the coming year.

SELECTMEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

Selectmen in account with Town of Northfield,

DR.

To orders drawn upon Tréasurer during year.

\$9728 03

CR.

By paid Charles H. Green, "Selectman"	76 50
Asa A. Holton, "	52 49
Henry W. Montague, "	51 25
R. C. Ward "School Committee,"	98 75
Elias Lyman, " "	3 00
E. E. Belden, "Auditor,"	2 00
Ira Coy, "	2 00
S. G. Titus, "	2 00
Outstanding orders,	118 15
On account Turners Falls Bridge,	2682 34
Library Committee,	275 00
Contingent expenses,	1440 49
Support of Poor,	968 25
Support of Schools,	2643 30
Support of Highways,	1312 51

\$9728 03

L. T. WEBSTER,	}	Selectmen.
ASA A. HOLTON,		
HENRY W. MONTAGUE,		

February 18th, 1881.

HIGHWAYS.

The following payments have been made for supporting and repairing the highways during the past year and includes snow bills in amount of about \$150.00.

A. J. Arlin, labor,	\$ 60
Liberty Page, sleepers for bridge and labor,	10 55
William W. Merriman, labor,	3 00
Charles S. Worden, labor and team,	89 17
Wright Arlin, labor,	16 25
H. H. Johnson, "	9 00
Stephen Keet, "	10 22
Charles Keet, "	1 25
Charles Mack, "	2 12
John A. Grout, "	2 15
Harrison Moors, "	87
John Dale, "	17 00
Charles Pomeroy, labor and team work,	20 12
David Dale, " " "	17 87
Charles Howard, " " "	7 50
Henry Mason, " " "	3 12
J. L. Mattoon, " "	29 50
James Wall, " "	76 87
Elisha Alexander, " "	33 00
Edwin Lyman, labor and team work,	29 87
Roselle Evans, "	1 25
Michiel Piggott, "	4 37
James Arlin,	7 50
Simeon May,	1 88
H. J. Evans,	63
Charles L. Robbins, labor and team,	26 17
Isaac Murdock, "	8 00
John Stimpson, "	5 38
Ansel Collar, "	10 75
Melvin Collar, "	10 60
Myron Chapin, "	2 43
Earl Chapin, "	2 00
Edward Turner, "	4 87
George Piper, "	4 87
William Piper, "	4 75
Frank Piper, "	1 12
Oliver T. Greenlief, "	14 12
Otis T. Greenleaf, "	38 75
Otis I. Greenleaf, "	4 50

J. B. Pierce,	labor,	\$1 25
A. Shepardson,	"	3 75
George Murdock,	"	1 25
George Cummings,	"	2 50
William Pierce,	"	2 00
Lester Collar,	"	37
Herbert Robbins,	"	1 00
George Heath,	"	68
Charles Stimpson,	"	93
Edward Murdock,	"	93
Earnest Sargent,	"	93
George Devoll,	"	1 50
S. H. Collar,	"	50
J. B. Putney,	"	1 75
Benjamin Davis,	"	3 25
James A. Dresser,	labor with team,	73 79
James E. Dresser,	" " " "	4 12
Joel Randell,	"	43 21
Gardner Collar's Sons,	labor,	1 80
H. M. Ward,	"	25
E. E. Russell,	"	25
Clarance Randell,	"	43
Alexander Holton,	"	62
Asa A. Holton,	"	8 87
John H. Robbins,	"	7 18
Lester Hale,	"	2 50
Roswell Stratton,	"	5 63
George Pratt,	"	60
Alonzo Billings,	"	50
P. McHugh,	"	15
Sylvanus Field,	"	1 25
Elisha A. Smith,	"	4 41
Oscar Woods,	" with team,	20 63
Lucius Stimpson,	"	8 50
Lucian Stimpson,	"	6 61
P. Pierce,	"	1 00
F. Farnsworth,	"	50
J. P. Wentworth,	"	8 25
Ralph Simons,	"	1 25
F. H. Simons,	"	1 25
Charles Moore,	"	2 75
S. Fisher,	"	3 13
Frank Whithead,	"	3 51
A. J. Holland,	"	3 50
H. J. Dunham,	"	5 65
Thomas Quinlan,	" with team,	44 65

Thomas Mason,		\$33 62
Charles X. James,		12 48
John Grace,		8 12
Isaac Mattoon,	labor,	75
G. R. Stebbins,	"	1 25
Mr. Tuffs,	"	2 50
Mikie Pigott,	"	1 50
Henry C. Holton,	" with team,	35 52
F. Z. Allen,	"	21 55
M. H. Day, stone work highways,		7 87
C. D. Stebbins,	"	50
J. Maynard,	"	1 75
Patrick Dalton,	"	38
T. Crehan,	"	62
James Campbell,	"	38
Alvin A. Long,	"	38
T. B. Mattoon,	"	63
Warren J. Wright,	"	3 00
J. B. Callender, use horse cart,		1 25
A. D. Stearns, plank.		25
C. W. Shepardson, labor with team,		36 74
A. L. Hale,	labor,	14 20
George Fisher,	"	4 57
Elias Lyman,	"	3 94
Clarence Moody,	"	31
Andrew G. Hale,	"	16 50
Roswell Holton,	"	10 80
E. E. Belden, labor with team,		10 50
William Burrows, labor,		2 65
H. Howe,	"	6 00
R. K. Caldwell,	"	12 44
D. Kingsley,	"	45
J. L. Preston, team work,		22 00
P. W. Preston, labor and team work,		34 30
N. W. Purple, labor and team work,		3 00
E. Dickinson, railings,		1 40
J. B. Morgan,	labor,	37
J. N. Aldrich,	"	2 50
Landman Nye,	"	20 82
Nelson Hilliard,	"	2 50
Westley Mann,	"	1 25
Winsor Morgan,	"	2 50
Fred Simonds,	"	4 27
Amos Whitaker,	"	2 75
John E. Nye, labor with team,		14 46
Clesson Merriman, labor with team,		6 58

H. C. Field,	labor,	\$19 31
F. G. Morgan,	"	1 00
Joseph Barton,	"	3 36
Anson Gage,	"	1 12
William Whitaker,	"	2 49
Z. Warner,	"	1 25
Geo. F. Alexander,	"	1 50
S. G. Titus,	"	3 12
I. Merriam,	"	2 50
Albert Whitaker,	"	10 50
H. W. Montague,	"	5 99
Simeon A. Field,	"	1 25
Wm. Merriam,	"	2 50
E. C. Nash,	"	5 00
James Delany,	"	2 50
Samuel Stickney,	"	7 99
Freeman Hilliard,	"	1 25
W. H. Stratton,	"	3 87
Samuel Ruggles,	"	3 12
S. G. Pratt,	"	5 00
Summer Stratton,	"	5 00
William Darlin,	"	1 50
Elliott C. Gage,	"	1 25
M. C. Miller,	"	12 87
Lyman Gilbert,	"	5 12
D. Benjamin,	"	1 00
Thomas Metcalf,	"	3 00
William Browning,	"	1 00
Eiisha Stratton,	"	50
Mr. Shatney,	"	1 25

Total expense of Highways,

\$1312 51

CONTINGENT AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

PAID AS FOLLOWS:

J. E. Williams, printing town reports 1880,	\$24 00
Town of Gill, balance due on account of ferries,	23 00
Library committee, for books purchased,	214 50
Sundry bills for school books,	127 04
C. H. Green, services rendered town after Feb. 15th,	9 00
Oliver T. Greenleaf, support water-trough 1877-78-79,	4 50
Lyman brothers, repairs of town furnace,	2 16
Rev. T. J. Clark, attending funerals of H. Robbins and S. Marsh,	6 00

Gracia Adams, error of assessment 1879,	\$1 38
Timothy Field, " " " 1880,	18 21
H. W. Webster, support of water-trough,	5 00
Insurance of town house,	26 25
Lucius Stimpson, digging grave and mowing yard,	6 00
A. S. Stratton, bridge plank,	4 59
Asa A. Holton, expenses before legislative committee,	14 00
S. A. Field, library share as per vote of town,	15 00
Gardner savings bank (Turners Falls bridge loan) note and interest,	2682 34
E. H. Starkey, repairing scraper and town work,	6 30
Otis T. Greenleaf, bridge plank \$14 per M,	11 43
Estate George Holton, error of assessment,	2 00
A. G. Hale, sleepers "Pachaug" bridge,	18 00
W. H. Jennings, bridge plank \$17 per M,	20 82
John P. Wentworth, over assessment,	4 60
J. A. Williams, wood for town house \$4 per cord,	16 77
E. A. Wheeler, supporting water-trough,	3 00
Henry Johnson, abatement highway tax "Perry farm,"	3 95
Charles Pomeroy, " " " " " "	3 95
E. W. Colton, surveying on town lines,	21 25
William Bain, board and care of Ellen Sullivan, state pauper,	64 43
Dr E. P. Pierce, medical attendance to same,	28 00
Jonathan Lyman, bridge plank \$12 per M,	21 60
George A. Long, making trucks complete for scraper,	40 00
Benjamin F. Gains, error of assessment,	3 91
H. B. Parker, support of water-trough,	2 00
Flora E. Lane, services as librarian,	55 00
" " " " sundry necessities furnished library,	5 50
Dr. R. C. Ward, medical services, F. Magoon, state pauper,	15 00
Fay and Newton, 769 feet bridge plank, \$15 per M.	11 53
B. B. Noyes & Co., sections old boiler for water-troughs,	32 60
H. W. Montague, expenses drawing out ferry boat,	6 36
A. A. Holton, setting four bound stones on highway,	4 00
Oscar E. Slate, keeping 45 tramps to May 1st,	4 50
A. A. Holton, sleepers for and repairing bridge,	11 00
Clesson Merriman, time spent with school committee,	2 00
N. W. Purple, breakage of scraper,	2 00
Thomas B. Mattoon, over assessment,	87
Henry Murdock, " " " "	1 05
A. D. Stearns, error of " " " "	2 47
Aaron Morgan, making and lettering four guide boards,	8 00
Dr. R. C. Ward, fare on account of paupers,	1 43

Affidavits to valuation returns,	75
L. T. Webster, expenses to Easthampton on account of paupers,	2 75
Railroad fare of C. S. Pratt to Natick,	3 20
Dwight S. Simonds, corrected valuation,	95
L. T. Webster, for sundry goods as per bill,	13 71
F. G. Tilton for list books,	2 25
Paid collector's tax book,	90
Paid blank town warrants,	75
R. K. Caldwell, abatement of sundry poor men's taxes for the year 1879,	56 98
R. K. Caldwell, abatement uncollected taxes 1878,	13 49
“ “ cash paid for tax bills,	2 50
“ “ services as constable,	22 00
“ “ services as collector,	82 00
“ “ discount on taxes paid as per vote of town,	376 02
Elias Lyman, services as treasurer,	40 00
“ “ “ clerk,	43 95
“ “ for paid sundry cash expenses as per bill,	14 50
Henry Wright, care town house,	27 40
“ “ town clock,	15 00
“ “ driving hearse,	39 00
“ “ return to town clerk of deaths,	6 25
“ “ mowing cemetery,	7 00
L. T. Webster, postage stamps, express &c. paid,	8 19
	\$4397 83

PAID ON ACCOUNT OF SCHOOLS.

A. R. Lyman, wood for district No. 1,	\$36 00
B. A. Stimpson, wood for district No. 5,	7 60
Westley Mann, wood for district No. 3,	18 00
George F. Alexander, wood for district No. 4,	17 10
Isreal Lyman, wood for district No. 2,	12 59
Alexander Holton, wood for district No. 9,	12 25
Henry W. Howe, wood for district No. 7,	6 25
Otis T. Greenleaf, wood for district No. 6,	3 00
Charles R. Pomeroy, articles for use in school dist., No. 1, last year,	9 50
Mrs. I. Carroll, cleaning school house school district No. 1, last year,	1 50
Mrs. William Dale, cleaning school house, school dis- trict No. 1,	5 25
John Carroll, care of school house, school district No. 1,	8 00

A. R. Lyman, sundry expenses on account schools district No. 1,	5 94
Frank H. Turner, repairs etc., on account school district No. 2,	1 90
Clesson Merriman, articles use of school dist. No. 3,	10 30
Willie Hart, care school house, " " 9,	3 00
J. H. Wentworth, care school house, " " 5,	3 45
H. W. Howe, " " " " 7,	2 50
Otis T. Greenleaf, " " " " 6,	2 00
H. F. Field, care for year, school house, school district No. 4,	6 00
H. F. Field, school supplies, district No. 4,	2 50
James Greenwood, care school house, district No. 7,	3 00
Willie Holton, " " " " " 9,	3 00
Dr. R. C. Ward, stove pipe purchased for district No. 7,	1 65
N. W. Purple, carrying scholars district No. 7,	28 00
Asa A. Holton, boarding teacher, " " 9,	33 00
Mrs. L. W. Moore, boarding teacher, district No. 9,	36 00
H. W. Montague, " " " " 4,	83 00
Elisha A. Smith, " " " " 6,	14 00
Otis T. Greenleaf, " " " " 6,	67 50
Electa Dickinson, " " " " 7,	25 00
Eva E. Slate, teaching district No. 1,	235 00
Lizzie M. Ingram, " " " " 1,	102 00
Gertrude C. Mattoon, " " " " 1,	240 50
Mrs G. M. Starkweather, " " " " 1,	90 00
Martin A. Brown, " " " " 2,	247 37
Anna H. Doolittle, " " " " 2,	80 80
Jennie Streeter, " " " " 3,	84 00
Mary E. Hilliard, " " " " 3,	120 00
Abby J. Pickett, " " " " 4,	158 00
Belle S. Benjamin, " " " " 4,	60 00
Irine Mattoon, " " " " 5,	120 00
Nellie Wentworth, " " " " 6,	21 00
Mary B. Randell, " " " " 6,	99 00
Belle E. Metcalf, " " " " 7,	112 00
Mrs. Fred Z. Allen, " " " " 8,	144 00
Clarence S. Hale, " " " " 9,	57 00
Cora B. Holton, " " " " 9,	203 85

\$2643 30

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The contract between the town and Henry Wright 2d, for the support of the poor, expires the first of April next. Your overseers feel that at this time it is but just for us to state, that during the time of his contract (three years,) the persons being mostly aged and infirm who have come under his charge, have been comfortably clothed and fed, and have in sickness and in health, been treated with care and kindness by Mr. Wright and family, for which they show their thankfulness by expressions of gratitude, of satisfaction, and contentment with their present situation, as far as their unfortunate condition will admit.

During the past year two deaths have occurred among those at his house, Adalans Field, aged 77 and George L. Doolittle, aged 56 years.

The following persons have been and are now supported at Mr. Wright's house. Hubbard Phelps, aged 80; David Belknap, 78; Samuel S. Holton, 69 and Lucretia Sawyer, aged 47.

The town is now supporting at the insane asylum at Worcester, Miss Mary Pierson and Mrs Catherine Hamell, at an expense of about \$350 per year, and receives annually from Mr. R. K Caldwell, guardian of Miss Pierson, about \$80 towards her support, as these persons are both young and should they continue insane, they will probably be a source of considerable expense to the town for some years to come.

Three members of the family of Chauncy Kimplin have been some time, and are now sick at Easthampton, and as they cannot be moved quite a bill will necessarily be incurred.

L. T. WEBSTER,	} Overseers of the Poor.
ASA A. HOLTON,	
H. W. MONTAGUE,	

Henry Wright, 2d, for support of poor persons at his house for the year ending April 1881,	\$521 00
Mrs. Harriett Okeley, for board of William Webster,	57 42
Charles S. Robbins, for support of Emory Robbins,	75 75
Mrs. S. Marsh, assistance to Solomon Marsh,	5 00
Paid for coffin for Solomon Marsh,	8 00
“ “ “ “ Jesse Kimplin,	8 50
“ provisions for Samuel S. Holton previous April 6th,	6 00
“ P. McHugh rent for Samuel S. Holton previous to April 6th,	4 00
Clothing bought for Susansa Grout,	3 49
Medical assistance to Lorenzo B. Putney,	15 00
Groceries and provisions furnished Samuel Lord,	6 00
Dr. R. C. Ward, medical attendance sickness Jennie Lord,	6 57
Dr. R. C. Ward, “ “ “ Alonzo Billings' family,	29 75
A. R. Lyman, meat, Alonzo Billings' family,	2 00
L. T. Webster, groceries and provisions, Alonzo Billings' family,	10 45
Mrs. Sarah Farnsworth as nurse, Alonzo Billings' family,	17 50
A. C. Parsons, suit of clothes for William Webster,	7 50
Total expense for Resident Poor,	\$783 93

ASSISTANCE RENDERED POOR LIVING IN OTHER TOWNS.

Town of Athol on account family Arthur Okeley,	\$36 26
“ “ “ “ Apolas Beach,	37 48
Town of Chesterfield, on account Ester Pratt,	5 00
“ “ “ “ family Chuuncy Kimlin,	6 40
“ Weymouth, “ Mrs. Parks,	5 00
“ Shutesbury, “ Susanna Grout,	9 85
“ Montague, “ “ “	8 00
“ Spencer, “ Francis Labonte,	5 33
City of Boston, on account William Linton,	4 50
Paid expenses incurred in visiting and moving poor,	16 50
Paid Dr. W. M. Trow of Easthampton, towards expenses of present sickness in the family of Chauncy Kimplin,	50 00
Total expense of poor exclusive of the insane,	\$968 25

ASSESSORS REPORT.

Assessed value of Real Estate,	\$567,888 00
Assessed value of Personal Estate,	80,135 00
Total valuation May 1st, 1880,	\$648,023 00

Number acres of land assessed,	20,112
“ dwelling houses “	374
“ horses, “	356
“ cows “	552
“ sheep “	413
“ polls “	435

TOWN ASSESSMENT FOR 1880.

Voted for schools,	2000 00
“ “ highways and bridges,	1500 00
“ “ contingent expenses,	2000 00
“ “ town library,	275 00
“ “ pay't Turners Falls bridge loan,	2600 00
For payment County tax,	1194 44
“ “ State tax,	645 00
Overlay,	114 85
Total raised by tax,	\$10,329 29
On polls,	870 00
“ personal estate,	1161 96
“ real estate,	8,297 33
	\$10,329 29
Rate per cent. \$1.45.	
Tax on each poll, \$2.	

L. T. WEBSTER, ASA A. HOLTON, H. W. MONTAGUE,	} Assessors.
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FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN,

FEBRUARY 18TH, 1881.

Cash in treasury as per settlement with	
Treasurer this day,	\$2740 06
Due from collector for tax of 1880,	729 29
" " the state for support of state	
paupers,	110 43
	\$3579 78

DUE AS PER AUDITORS REPORT.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

L. T. Webster,	\$ 93 75
Asa A. Holton,	109 30
H. W. Montague,	51 87

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Dr. R. C. Ward,	78 75
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AUDITORS BILLS.

A. C. Parsons,	2 00
L. T. Webster,	2 00
S. G. Titus,	2 00

DEBTS OUTSTANDING.

Charles H. Green's note and interest,	1661 00
Balance in favor of the town,	1579 11
	\$3579 78

L. T. WEBSTER,	} Selectmen of Northfield.
ASA A. HOLTON,	
H. W. MONTAGUE,	

ELIAS LYMAN, TREASURER,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD FROM FEBRU-
ARY 17th, 1880, TO FEBRUARY 19th, 1881.

EXPENDITURES.

To cash paid on Selectmen's orders,	\$9728 03
“ “ County tax,	1194 44
“ “ State tax,	645 00
“ “ Worcester Lunatic Hospital,	249 32
“ “ Danvers “ “	58 13
“ “ Interest on C. H. Green's note,	90 00
“ “ State treasurer 1-4 liquor license,	37 50
Balance in hands of Treasurer,	2740 06
	————— \$14,742 48

We have examined the accounts of Elias Lyman, Treasurer of
Northfield, and find them correct and properly vouched for.

A. C. PARSONS,	} Auditors.
L. T. WEBSTER,	
S. G. TITUS,	

ELIAS LYMAN, TREASURER,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD FROM FEBRU-
ARY 17th, 1880, TO FEBRUARY 19th, 1881.

RECEIPTS.

By cash in treasury Feb. 17, 1880.	\$2,234 26
Received of R. K. Caldwell, tax 1878,	35 07
" " " " tax 1879,	544 98
" " " " tax 1880,	9600 00
State Treasurer, Corporation tax,	779 97
" " National Bank tax,	525 52
" " State aid,	187 00
" " State school fund,	215 85
County Treasurer dog fund,	102 80
Liquor licenses,	150 00
R. C. Ward from sale of school books,	102 69
Overseers of Poor,	80 00
Interest on surplus revenue,	75 84
Rent of Town hall,	89 25
Auctioneer's license,	4 00
Town of Conway,	2 50
Town of Erving,	1 75
Town of Winchester, N. H.,	1 00
	———— \$14,742 48

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth, the Superintending School Committee of Northfield, respectfully present the following report of the schools for the past year.

The relation the common school holds to the stability of government, is a question that naturally presents itself for consideration in a school report. This like all other questions presents two sides for discussion, but it is not our province to disparage the common school. The Jews have a popular and beautiful saying, "The world is saved by the breath of school children." The beauty of this saying lies in its truthfulness. The educational institutions of this state, which every citizen may justly feel a pride in, owe their success and influence to the action of our forefathers, in establishing schools 245 years ago. From the foundation then laid, there has extended a power that is felt in all parts of our country. The Massachusetts Bay Colony in its infancy, raised \$2000 for the purpose of establishing a school. The result of this move is now known as Harvard College, the oldest and most prosperous institution of learning in the country. The triennial catalogue of 1872, contained the names of 12,175 graduates from this college, 7000 of whom were then living. The influence of these men has been, and is now felt through the world.

Does any one question the wisdom of the Puritans, in thus early caring for the "breath of the school children?" Can any one estimate the potency that has been exerted in shaping the affairs of other states and the nation, which sprang from the seed planted in Cambridge in 1636? Had this factor in the establishment of a new government been left out, this country could never have attained to the eminence it now occupies. This noble legacy left us by our ancestors, we should guard with a jealous care, and leave it unimpaired to our posterity, a duty that should always be based upon love. Each town is a fractional unit of the great whole, whose duty it is to see that this legacy shall be *added* to in its transmission. If any town fails to do its whole duty in this

matter of vital importance, it engenders a dry fungus that soon neutralizes its own utility, and infects surrounding towns. It is well to pause here and ask the question, have we as a town, done our whole duty? The answer must be in the negative. If to specify some of the omissions and commissions, would lead to a radical change, our effort would be amply rewarded.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

First. There should be a day's heartfelt interest, and sound judgment, in the choice of those who are to be entrusted with the supervision of your schools. Elect those in whose ability and fidelity you have confidence and none other; then assist them in their labors, with your sympathy at least. The duties of a school committee are anything but pleasant, when they have to contend with the apathy and often with the open opposition of the public. Their labors with these obstacles constantly presented, must necessarily result in far less benefit to the schools than might otherwise accrue.

CLERGYMEN AND TOWN OFFICERS.

The Legislators of this Commonwealth evidently considered the religious and civil prosperity of the State, closely interwoven with that of the school, when they made it the *duty* of resident ministers of the gospel and selectmen of a town, to co-operate with the school committee in enforcing the attendance of the youth in schools established for their instruction. An interested performance of this duty on the part of the officers named, would result in great good for the schools. It would evidence to the teachers and scholars, that their work and its results were under the scrutiny of the leading men of the town. It would create an earnest desire on the part of both teacher and scholar to merit their approval. It would tend to check the growth of rudeness, illmanners and other evils, that arise from want of notice by superiors. It would be a powerful factor in creating a healthy public sentiment in favor of our schools. School children are like older people, they appreciate the notice of those not immediately connected with them, and by this are stimulated to greater exertion.

PARENTS.

It is not a statutory duty of parents to visit the schools or to

assist in enforcing attendance, but they should be prompted to do both by a law, higher than that found in any civil code extant. We are pleased to know that many of the parents of children attending school, (especially the mothers) have manifested quite an interest in the schools. We hope this interest will extend to the fathers and to those who have no scholars. If the habit of visiting schools was more generally practiced, there would be more true sympathy for the teacher, a closer bond of union between teacher and scholar, and very much less censure. The Jews are accredited with another saying embodying a truth that is universal: "That child is best educated who is first taught by his mother." The force of this truth rests upon the fact, that the mother is a true teacher. It is supposed that every mother will educate her child in that which will result in the greatest good. We sometimes see the reverse of this, however much the mother may desire it otherwise.

We have noticed the past winter, disrespect toward teachers from scholars, which emanated without doubt from the child having heard the parents speak disrespectfully of the teacher. A moment's reflection must convince every thinking parent, that this practice results in injury to the child only. Scholars should be taught to respect that which a teacher represents.

TEACHERS.

Josh Billings says; "Flattery is like Cologne-water, made to smell of, but not to swallow." We do not individualize any teacher for flattery or censure, but present some points wherein nearly every teacher has failed to accomplish all she might. It is required of all teachers, not only to impart a knowledge of books, but to instill as much as possible into the minds of her pupils, "all those virtues which are the ornament of human society and the basis upon which a republican constitution is founded." Veneration, is a virtue which has not been given the importance it deserves. We would have this taught in its broadest meaning. Teach your scholars to reverence everything that ennobles and makes them better, pity the erring, and respect all.

Ingenuousness should be treated as a virtue of priceless worth, rather than an evidence of weakness.

Children, who are open and frank in their actions, confessing

their own faults, unwilling to shield others in their wrong doing, are too often considered below the standard. This trait of character in a child should be cultivated, and everything that tends to destroy it should be corrected. A school is a good place to learn the little practices of making things appear different than what they really are, unless the teacher uses all the vigilance she can. Perhaps the greatest fault of our teachers, has been the idea of considering the child's mind a cellar, or store house, rather than a garden plot which is to be cultivated by their labor. The children are presented to them with mental powers, which it is their duty to develop. They are to use good seed, and cultivate properly. If they do this the harvest will be bountiful, proportionate to the fertility of the soil. It is the duty of the gardener to root up the noxious weed, as much as to cultivate the useful plant. We hope teachers may devote more energy in this direction, than has been done heretofore. If this fact is thoroughly observed in our schools, instead of having a class of scholars filled with dry facts received from the teachers, like so much produce garnered for future use, liable to losses in various ways, we shall have a beautiful, mental garden filled with useful plants, each of which will produce a delicious fruit of its kind. These results, growing with the child, are part and parcel of the child, and will never be lost.

SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The present system of managing our schools does not give them all that can be given, even in a country town like this. Whether we remain in the district system, or pass into the town system, we should have a high school. The old district system is followed by but few towns to-day. If the town system was not the best, would not more towns follow the old? As we now are, there is no head to our schools. No other business can prosper, managed as our schools are, and we doubt if they will retain the standing they now have. Give us the town system, a high school, a well arranged course of studies, and a school committee willing to work, and the educational status of this town will be raised by quite a percentage in a short time. It is an established fact, that division of labor produces greater results. Three shoemakers can do more in one day, than one can in three days. If we had a

high school, where scholars who pass the required examination, could enter and pursue their studies, after having attended a primary and grammar school, they would at the age of 14 years, be further advanced than they now are at 17 years of age. There is no reason why we may not have a good high school.

IMPROVEMENTS.

District No. 1 has erected a beautiful and commodious school house. This building is an ornament to the village, and credit to the district. In the upper part of the building is a large, pleasant room, that can be fitted and used for a high school. Those living in the out districts think they will not be benefited by having such a school in the village. Every part of the town is within accessible distance of the village, and can attend school there cheaper and easier than to go out of town. While some improvements have been made, there are others needed. The school houses in many of the districts need painting, some need repairs, and all need better facilities for ventilation.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Since the change in the limits of the school districts, three of them have not organized. A part of the inhabitants of one, feel aggrieved and have taken measures to have their grievances, righted. The amount of money expended for schools in that district the past year, is \$206 50 for 16 scholars, making \$12 90 per scholar; while in district No. 1, the cost per scholar is \$6.40. They have a just claim to the benefits of a common school, and these have been within their reach the past year. It is impossible to give the rural districts the same facilities for attending school that villages have. We have noticed that the average scholarship in these districts is higher than in villages. This is due to the absence of diversions which take the scholars attention. We hope the parents in these districts will see it to be for their interest to maintain this absence of diversion.

CONCLUSION.

We cannot urge to strongly, the importance of scholars attending school every day. Tardiness may be unavoidable at times, but we feel that the number of absences is far greater than it should be. We are shaping the destiny of the coming generation, and what that shall be depends on the way our children are edu-

cated. As a rule, the child that is in his place always, at school, will be in his place always, in after life.

The inhabitants of a town must be more or less closely associated, and if we had more sympathy of feeling and unity of action, would it not be a noble gift to leave our posterity? In union there is strength. All selfish interests in the education of children, should be sunk in oblivion..

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE PAST YEAR.—AMOUNT PAID
TO FEBRUARY 19, 1881.

District No. 1,	\$532 19
“ “ 2,	219 16
“ “ 3,	138 00
“ “ 4,	248 60
“ “ 5,	131 05
“ “ 6,	206 50
“ “ 7,	147 40
“ “ 8,	144 00
“ “ 9,	255 10
	\$2022 00

AMOUNT DUE SCHOOLS NOW IN SESSION.

District No. 2,	\$126 10
“ “ 3,	77 20
“ “ 7,	89 73
“ “ 7, carrying scholars,	30 00
	\$323 03

Amount appropriated, and applied for schools,	\$2404 49
“ paid, and now due for schools past year,	2345 03
Balance in treasury,	59 46

R. C. WARD, FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Northfield, Mass., Feb. 22, 1881.

SCHOOL BOOK ACCOUNT.

R. C. Ward, in account with the Town of Northfield,

DR.

1880.	To school books on hand, Feb. 14, 1880,	\$97 72
June 4.	“ paid Wm. Ware & Co., for school books,	62 60
Nov. 12.	“ “ New Eng. School Furnishing Co., for chart, &c.,	9 00
1881.		
Jan. 8.	To paid Knight Adams & Co., school books,	52 54
Feb. 10.	“ “ exp. and P. O. money order, as per bill,	2 90
		\$224 76

CR.

By cash paid town treasurer,	\$102 69	
“ books charged, (amount given assessors),	29 45	
“ crayons furnished schools,	2 80	
“ books on hand, Feb. 16, 1881,	89 82	
	\$224 76	
Amount of orders from Selectmen,		\$127 04

We have examined the above account, and find it correct and properly vouched for.

A. C. PARSONS,	}	Auditors.
L. T. WEBSTER,		
S. G. TITUS,		

REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

FEBRUARY 19, 1881.

No. of books in Library, last report,		1764
“ “ purchased past year,		136
“ “ presented “ “		3
“ “ reported lost, but since found,		3
“ “ given in, belonging to social library,		3
		1909
No. of books withdrawn from circulation,	2	
“ “ lost,	1	
		3
No. of books in library Feb. 19, 1881,		1906
“ families that have taken books,	179	
“ volumes circulated,	4062	

The number of new books purchased each year is limited. When the new books are ready for circulation, the patrons of the library are all anxious to secure a *new* book. Your committee wishing to give the public as equal an opportunity to take books, as possible, limited the number of books in each family, at one time, to two. What constituted a family, was decided by the rule that governs the U. S. Postoffice department. When we made this change in the regulations of the library, we supposed that the motive which actuated the proprietors of the social library, was to make the benefits of the library accessible to those who were then deprived, and were unable to secure such a privilege. We believe that such was the motive of most, if not all of the original proprietors, and have been governed accordingly. The library must be supported by taxation, if it is to be open to the public. The right to take books is, and should be, granted to every taxpayer. Every taxpayer has a right to travel the high-

way, so has every other citizen. A state would be accredited with idiotcy, that did not have some restriction in the use of the highways. This principle must govern the management of libraries or any other enterprise. Property is taxed for the support of government, and money paid for the maintainance of good schools and free libraries, not only helps to support government but improves the society where the money is so used. Any person who claims that his wants must be satisfied before those of others, simply because he pays a tax, is prompted by a motive too selfish for consideration. It is the acme of absurdity to give to others, and claim the same rights in the article given as you had before the gift was made. Eighty-two families have been fined for keeping books beyond the specified time. Sixty-nine of these families, have paid their fines which is evidence that the benefits of a public library are appreciated and accepted with the restrictions.

We are pleased to find the library in good condition considering the number of volumes circulated.

The books are all accounted for and in their proper places, except seventeen that need rebinding. These will be rebound and ready for circulation when the library is again opened.

We feel thankful to Miss Flora E. Lane, the librarian, for the able manner with which she has seconded our efforts to place the library on a firm basis; also, for the neat and orderly condition of the room and books, and the pleasant way she has had in performing her duty as librarian.

In purchasing one hundred or more new books, some of exceptional character will sometimes find their way into the library. Such was our experience last spring. Soon as we learned this fact, we immediately withdrew the books from circulation.

Your committee feel that the library has been a success, and hope that you will not only continue your generous support, but increase the amount appropriated for new books. This would enable the committee to allow more than two books in each family.

R. C. WARD, }
F. H. WRIGHT, } Library Committee.

Library Committee in account with the Town of Northfield,

Dr.

To cash on hand,	\$ 12 83
Appropriation for books,	150 00
“ “ Librarian and incidentals,	125 00
Cash received from fines,	10 21
“ “ “ Mr. A. M. D. French,	2 00
“ “ “ for book lost,	1 25
	\$301 29

1880

Cr.

March 4,	By paid Field & Hall, for paper and labels,	\$4 00
“ 15,	Ft. on books from Amherst,	35
“ 17,	J. E. Abbie for books,	45 75
“ 24,	“ “ “	34 70
April 3,	Ft. on books from N. Y.,	1 16
“ 7,	F. A. Slate, for binding books,	18 02
“ 29,	Scribner Sons, for books,	70 19
May 4,	Van Doorn, for chandelier,	8 00
“ 24,	F. A. Slate, for binding books,	3 85
July 28,	Field & Hall, printing appendices,	4 50
Oct. 5,	Rev. T. J. Clark, for books,	14 00
1881.		
Feb. 14,	Librarian,	55 00
Feb. 14,	Flora E. Lane, as per bill,	5 50
Feb. 19,	R. C. Ward, as per bill,	2 10
	Cash in hands of Library Committee,	34 17
		\$301 29

We have examined the above account, and find it correct and properly vouched for.

A. C. PARSONS,	} Auditors.
L. T. WEBSTER,	
S. G. TITUS,	



